

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1 and 4 without prejudice or disclaimer of their underlying subject matter.

Please amend the claims in the following manner.

1. (canceled)

2. (previously presented) A run-flat tire, including:

a run-flat support member constituted of a circular shell and a pair of elastic rings within a cavity of a pneumatic tire, the circular shell having a support surface extending in a tire circumferential direction and having a pair of leg portions attached to the support surface; and

a pair of stages in the tire circumferential direction protruding from a pair of beads, an elastic ring of the pair of elastic rings having a first face in contact with a leg portion of the pair of leg portions and having a second face opposite the first face in contact with a stage of the pair of stages,

wherein the stage contacts a bead of the pair of beads to form a corner, the corner receiving the elastic ring.

3-4. (canceled)

5. (previously presented) A tire/wheel assembly, in which a pneumatic tire is fit onto a wheel rim, including:

a run-flat support member constituted of a circular shell and a pair of elastic rings within a cavity of a pneumatic tire, the circular shell having a support surface extending in a tire circumferential direction and having a pair of leg portions attached to the support surface; and

a pair of stages in the tire circumferential direction protruding from a pair of beads, an elastic ring of the pair of elastic rings having a first face in contact with a leg portion of the pair of leg portions and having a second face opposite the first face in contact with a stage of the pair of stages,

wherein the stage contacts a bead of the pair of beads to form a corner, the corner receiving the elastic ring.

6. (canceled)

7. (currently amended) The run-flat tire according to ~~any one of claims 1 and~~ claim 2, wherein the support surface has at least one convexly curved portion aligned in a tire axial direction.

8. (currently amended) The run-flat tire according to ~~any one of claims 1 and~~ claim 2, wherein the support member is separated from a tread of the pneumatic tire under normal driving conditions.

9. (currently amended) The run-flat tire according to ~~any one of claims 1 and~~ claim 2, wherein the support surface is structurally adapted to support the pneumatic tire when the pneumatic tire is deflated.

10. (currently amended) The run-flat tire according to ~~any one of claims 1 and claim~~ 2, wherein a rubber portion protrudes from the bead in a tire axial direction, a surface of the rubber portion being the stage.

11. (previously presented) The run-flat tire according claim 10, wherein the rubber portion is harder than the bead.

12. (currently amended) The tire/wheel assembly according to ~~any one of claims 4 and claim~~ 5, wherein the support surface has at least one convexly curved portion aligned in a tire axial direction.

13. (currently amended) The tire/wheel assembly according to ~~any one of claims 4 and claim~~ 5, wherein the support member is separated from a tread of the pneumatic tire under normal driving conditions.

14. (currently amended) The tire/wheel assembly according to ~~any one of claims 4 and claim~~ 5, wherein the support surface is structurally adapted to support the pneumatic tire when the pneumatic tire is deflated.

15. (currently amended) The tire/wheel assembly according to ~~any one of claims 4 and claim~~ 5, wherein a rubber portion protrudes from the bead in a tire axial direction, a surface of the rubber portion being the stage.

16. (previously presented) The tire/wheel assembly according claim 15, wherein the rubber portion is harder than the bead.